GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:351
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
USE OF BRONCHOSCOPES
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item that Bronchoscopes devise recalled from US hospitals due to exposure of patients to disastrous Bacteria, still in use in Indian hospitals as reported in `Hindustan Times` dated, March, 8, 2002;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to ban the import and use of this rejected device; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps so far taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 351 FOR 17TH APRIL, 2002

Yes, Sir. It is true that Olympus America has withdrawn certain Bronchoscope models.These were distributed in several countries of the world. Bronchoscope models have been withdrawn due to presence of a bacteria that spread potential life threatening infection to patients. The source of the bacteria is believed to be a loose part of the Bronchoscope, which could act as a reservoir for bacteria.

The information about use of equipments in hospitals all over India is not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Nevertheless, information regarding use of Bronchoscope in Central Government hospitals in Delhi/All India Institute of Medical Sciences has been collected. Out of the Bronchoscope used in those hospitals, the number of Olympus Bronchoscope is as follows: -

AIIMS - 2,
RML - 1,
Safdarjung - 2
LHMC - Nil

The models being used in the above hospitals are not the ones, which have been recalled by the company.

Attention of all the State Governments/Central Government Hospitals is being drawn to the recall of certain models of Olympus Bronchoscope.